

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

DRP-6729

FORM IRP 10A 1. 15. 56		DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		CLASSIFICATION <b>SECRET</b>		STATE INVESTIGATION REQUESTED <b>1 September 55</b>		PAGE 1 OF <b>6</b> PAGES	
FROM: <b>IRP/ TRIESTE</b>				DATE OF REPORT <b>23 July 1956</b>					
SUBJECT IDENTIFYING DATA									
CLASS <b>ESCAPEE</b>		IRP CONTROL NO. <b>Trieste-1204</b>		FAMILY GROUP NO.'S <b>Trieste-1205</b>					
NAME <b>SOODIA</b>		(SURNAME)		(FIRST NAME) <b>Johannes</b>		(MIDDLE NAME) <b>(NMT)</b>		SEX <b>Male</b>	
ALIASES <b>None</b>				PRESENT NATIONALITY <b>Estonian</b>					
DATE OF BIRTH <b>14 January 1897</b>		(DAY) (MONTH) (YEAR)		PLACE OF BIRTH <b>Kudina</b>		(CITY)		(COUNTRY) <b>Estonia</b>	
ACCOMPANYING MINORS (NO SEPARATE REPORT PREPARED)									
NAME		SEX		DATE OF BIRTH		PLACE OF BIRTH		IRP CONTROL NUMBER	
<b>None</b>									
A. RECORDS CHECKS									
U.S. RECORDS CHECK		RESULT <b>R</b>		DATE <b>7 Dec 55</b>		QUESTURA OF Trieste		RESULT <b>R</b>	
U.S. RESIDENCE - INS		---				FINGERPRINT CHECK		RESULT <b>NR</b>	
U.S. RESIDENCE - "B"		---							
OTHER CONSULAR DISTRICT RECORDS									
TRIESTE CONSULATE CHECK		HR		23 Dec 55					
CONSULAR LOOK-OUT		NR		26 May 55					
OTHER		NR		14 Dec 55					
IRP-8, PARIS		R		26 Mar 56					
IRP-8 STUTTGART		NR		3 Dec 55					
GENOA (IC)									
LEGEND: R. RECORD. NR. NO RECORD									
B. SPLIT INVESTIGATIONS:									
INNER-COUNTRY (STUTTGART)									
C. REMARKS:									
ATTENTION IS INVITED TO PARAGRAPH (5) Sect. 8 (Military) Sect. 9 (Political)									
THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS TITLE 18, U.S.C. SECTIONS 793 & 794 AND IS LIMITED TO AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ASROD AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE VISAS AND TO IMMIGRATION INSPECTORS DESIGNATED TO FUNCTION ABROAD UNDER THE REFUGEE RELIEF ACT OF 1953. AN UNAUTHORIZED TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.									
D. DISTRIBUTION:									
THOMAS VENTURINI, Chief Investigator									
RI COPY									
IRP/W. ORIGINAL & 4		VISA OFFICER, 1		CONTROL OFFICER, 2		CLASSIFICATION			

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2004 2008

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NAME <b>SOODLA, Johannes (NMI)</b>		IRP CONTROL NO. <b>Trieste-1204</b>													
SPONSOR(S) (NAME AND ADDRESS) <b>Alexander Manglavitch, 294 Elizabeth Street, New York 12, N.Y. USA</b>															
DETAILS:															
<p>1. SOODLA, Johannes was born 14 January 1897 at Kudina, Estonia.</p> <p>This information as verified by a status certificate (photostat) issued 16 February 1956 at Trieste and confirmed by the Questura (police) of Trieste Investigative Report, submitted to IRP/Trieste.</p> <p>2. Above documents indicate that Applicant is the son of <u>Karl SOODLA</u> and <u>Anlena SOODLA nee SINECH</u>. <u>SOODLA</u></p> <p>3. Applicant's visa file contains a status certificate (photostat). Said document certifies that Applicant married <u>Irene Heimberg</u> (Applicant's second marriage) on 1 November 1939 at Paris, France (Estonian Embassy). They had two children, both are deceased.</p> <p>4. In personal interview, Applicant states that he has been an Estonian citizen since birth.</p> <p>This information was verified by Questura Investigative Report and documents in Applicant's Visa file.</p> <p>5. In personal interview and in documents submitted, Applicant stated that he has no close relatives presently residing in Estonia or in any other Communist-dominated country.</p> <p>6. Applicant's statements, documents submitted, and Questura Investigative Report indicate that he has resided as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>March 1952 to date:</td> <td>Trieste, Italy (Via d'Annunzio No. 37)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1951 to 1952:</td> <td>Bedburg-Hau, Kleve, Germany</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1949 to 1951:</td> <td>Osnabruck, Germany</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1948 to 1949:</td> <td>Bedburg-Hau, Kleve, Germany</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1944 to 1948:</td> <td>Coslar Harz, Germany</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1897 to 1944:</td> <td>Kudina, Estonia (including Military service from 1918 to 1940).</td> </tr> </table> <p>7. In personal interview, Applicant appeared to be in good physical and mental health. No adverse information concerning Applicant's physical or mental health was uncovered by Questura Investigative Report or in documents submitted by Applicant.</p> <p>8. In personal interview, Applicant stated that he has been in the Estonian Army from 1916 to 1945 attaining the rank of Major General.</p> <p>This information was substantiated by the Questura of Trieste Investigative Report.</p> <p>However, see Section #9 (Political) for further details.</p> <p>9. In personal interview, Applicant stated that as a professional soldier he had always voted for anti-Communist parties in Estonia, favoring the principles of the Agrarian Party which he described as anti-Communist and democratic.</p> <p>Applicant stated that in March 1942, he was appointed Director of the Estonian Civil Affairs by German occupation authorities, which post he held until August 1945. On that date, he was inducted into the German-controlled Estonian Army where he was assigned to the Defense Division, which fought in Estonia in 1943 and 1944. In this unit, Applicant held the rank of Major General.</p> <p>AS ANNOUNCED, THE TRANSMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION IS PROHIBITED TO ANY PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.</p>				March 1952 to date:	Trieste, Italy (Via d'Annunzio No. 37)	1951 to 1952:	Bedburg-Hau, Kleve, Germany	1949 to 1951:	Osnabruck, Germany	1948 to 1949:	Bedburg-Hau, Kleve, Germany	1944 to 1948:	Coslar Harz, Germany	1897 to 1944:	Kudina, Estonia (including Military service from 1918 to 1940).
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NAME SOODIA, Johannes (NMI)		IRP CONTROL NO. Trieste-1204	
SPONSOR(S) (NAME AND ADDRESS)			
DETAILS:			
<p>Para. #9 continued -</p> <p>With the retreat of the German forces in the face of the Russian advance, Applicant escaped from Estonia eventually arriving at Berlin at which place he remained until November 1948.</p> <p>During the post-war period, Applicant states that he was pre-occupied with the freeing of Estonian Prisoners of War's and was generally active as an advisor to Estonian committees, and as a liaison official working with the Allied occupational forces.</p> <p>Applicant stated that from November 1948 to September 1949, he was occupied with the forming of a vocational school for Baltic Refugees in Bedburg, Germany.</p> <p>Applicant stated that he had engaged in no further political activity.</p> <p>Questura of Trieste Investigative Report confirmed Applicant's statement of sympathy for the Agrarian Party of Estonia, which that Agency described as anti-Communist, and further reported that from information available to that Agency, Applicant is considered to be "a person of anti-Communist ideology," with no further record of political activity.</p> <p>A field investigation was conducted by the American Consulate General, Stuttgart, the results of which were transmitted to this office. This investigative report includes an extract from the Central Registry, Headquarters 66th CIC, APO 154, U.S. Army, which revealed the following information concerning Applicant.</p> <p>On 21 November 1955, the files of the Central Registry, Headquarters 66th CIC Group, APO 154, US Army, were checked and revealed the following information concerning SUBJECT:</p> <p>SOODIA, Johannes, 14 January 1897, KUDINA, Estonia:</p> <p>SUBJECT, an Oberfuehrer (Brigadier General) in the Estonian Grenadier Regiment in May 1943, was promoted to Brigadefuehrer (Major General) in November 1944. SUBJECT given the responsibility of calling up thousands of Estonians to form the "Estonian Legion SS" brigade. (C-3) He became definitely convinced that the NAZI regime would win and exerted every effort toward this cause. (Unevaluated) SUBJECT is described as assistant to B.F. MOLLER, an inspector of Estonian Volunteer Troops; his duties were raising and organization new units, training, draft of new personnel. (C-3) SUBJECT was of interest to the British in 1945 and it was reported in December 1945 that he had been arrested by them. (B-2) No other information is given.</p> <p>However, all other agency checks conducted in that investigation revealed no information of a derogatory nature concerning Applicant.</p> <p>Witness interviews conducted in the course of above investigation revealed information of a derogatory nature concerning Applicant.</p> <p>ASSIGNMENT TO FUNCTION ABROAD UNDER THE REFUGEE RELIEF ACT OF 1953</p> <p>AMENDED. THE TRANSMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION OF ITS (see next page)</p>			

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In personal interview, Applicant disclaimed any past or present organizational membership.

Report of Field Investigation conducted by the Questura of Trieste confirmed Applicant's statement of negative organizational history. Report of field investigation conducted by the American Consulate General, Stuttgart, revealed no record of any organizational history.

11. In personal interview, Applicant denied ever having been arrested or otherwise detained. Questura Investigative Report and Applicant's Penal extract disclose no criminal record.

12. Applicant stated that he has completed eight years of schooling. This information was confirmed in Questura Investigative Report.

13. Applicant has been a professional (Estonian) since 1910, but is currently a Camp Director. Questura Investigative Report confirms Applicant's statement of employment history.

14. A review of documents in Applicant's visa and passport file revealed no information in conflict with Applicant's statement or Questura (Police) Investigative Report.

A Field Investigation of the Applicant, including a check places of residence and employment was conducted by the Questura of Trieste the results of which are included in the body of this Report. Questura

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SPONSOR(S) (NAME AND ADDRESS)		
DETAILS:		
<p>Para. #14 continued--</p> <p>Investigation further indicates that Applicant is considered to be a person of good character, history and reputation.</p> <p>A Field Investigation was conducted by the American Consulate General, Stuttgart, the results of which are included in the body of this report. Report of this investigation was transmitted to this office in and IRP-8, received 26 March 1956.</p> <p>IRP-9, Paris, received 14 December 1955, revealed no derogatory information.</p> <p>No further field activity was conducted in the course of this investigation.</p> <p>15. SOODIA, Johannes was interviewed at the IRP Office, American Consulate, Frieste, on 21 September 1955. Throughout the interview, Applicant responded unreservedly to all questions posed and appeared to be sincere in his replies. He gave no indication that he was withholding pertinent information.</p> <p>In personal interview, Applicant stated that he cannot return to his former home in Kudina, Estonia for fear of suffering political persecution due to his aversion to the Communist regime, and because of his known anti-Communist activity.</p> <p>Applicant stated that he entered Frieste in 1953 and has remained there since that date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">END OF REPORT</p>		
<p>THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS TITLE 18, U.S.C. SECTIONS 793 &amp; 794 AND IS LOANED TO AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS AERCAD AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE VISAS AND TO IMMIGRATION INSPECTORS DESIGNATED TO FUNCTION AERCAD UNDER THE REFUGEE RELIEF ACT OF 1951 AS AMENDED. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.</p>		